



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Correctional Officers Join Santa to Give City Kids a Special Day On December 8th

Staff from Metropolitan Transition Center Has Thrown a Christmas Party At Sts. James and John for 15 years

TOWSON, MD (December 5, 2006)---Correctional staff from the Metropolitan Transition Center in Baltimore will throw their annual Christmas party for the children of nearby St. James and John School **on Friday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m.** Santa Claus will stop by, breakfast will be served, and every child will receive a gift. The correctional employees at the former State Pen have been hosting the event for 15 consecutive years.

"To see the looks on the children's faces is just heartwarming," says the event's mainstay Andy Stritch, Transition Coordinator at the Metropolitan Transition Center, and one of the longest-serving Division of Correction employees with 39 years of service. Mr. Stritch is the historian at what used to be known as the Maryland Penitentiary. "We make sure every single child gets to sit on Santa's lap."

Who: Santa Claus, correctional staff from the Metropolitan Transition Center

What: Christmas party and breakfast

When: Friday, December 8 at 9:30 a.m.

Where: Sts. James and John School, 1012 Somerset St. in East Baltimore

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